

**Monday, January 30, 2023 6:30 PM**

**Budget Hearing  
Dalton Select Board**

Call to order at 6:30 pm by Jo Beth Dudley. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley, Tamela Swan and Carol Sheltry were present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking.

Public attendees: Dorris Mitton, Cathy Dubreuil, Terri Parks, Tom Dubreuil, Eric Pilotte, Robin Pilotte, Ron Sheltry, Warren Green, Jennifer Green, Jay Ennis, Kristina Ennis, John Bean, Mark Jacobs, Christine Ordinetz, Linda Greenwood, Jon Swan, Vic St. Cyr, Cathleen Fountain, Bob Wentworth, Jessie Wentworth, and Pam Kathan as well as others who chose not to sign in and could not be identified.

The preliminary budget and proposed warrant articles were provided for all attendees.

The Select Board reviewed the budget with participants and provided explanation to the increases in the proposed budget.

Questions were asked regarding the increase in pay for Administrative Staff, proposed at 5%. Highway staff received pay increases in 2022. The Fire Chief was not included in the increase proposal.

Per the petitioned warrant article to abolish the Dalton Conservation Commission, there was a question asked about what happens to the funds in the Conservation bank account. It was asked if those funds would go into operating funds to help offset property taxes. Jo Beth stated that an audit of the funds would be required to see where they came from. Any grants or gifts made for specific purposes would likely have to be returned to the gifter; current use funds could be returned to operating funds with a town vote.

The Highway is in need of replacing two trucks. One will be paid through their capital reserve fund but the other would require a bond/note. Jeanette is working on the details with Bob Wentworth and a public hearing will be held for more details.

A question was asked in regards to the amount the town would be required to raise for operating expenses. The preliminary figure was provided.

Jo Beth mentioned the Town Emblem warrant; the proposed emblem, designed and drawn by Terri Parks, was presented in the room and passed around for participants to view.

Questions were raised and directed to Fire Chief Sheltry regarding the amount of fire department and EMS calls, drugs calls, Narcan uses, burglaries, etc. Sheltry provided general responses and stated that allowable information will be provided in the town report.

Jo Beth motion to move forward with the proposed budget for DRA approval and town meeting. Tamela Swan second with approval via roll call.

Jo Beth made a motion with a second by Carol to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

After the meeting was adjourned, Dorris Mitton and Robin Pilotte as well as Pam Kathan questioned why the warrant articles weren't being read out loud. A claim was made that the meeting was 'illegal' because the warrant articles were not read to the public. The Select Board did not agree with this statement but stated that if this was a requirement, another meeting would be held. The Select Board reiterated that the deadline for petition warrant articles hadn't passed yet and the articles presented tonight were in draft form. Response from legal inquiry confirmed that the articles were only required to be presented, not read out loud.

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Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

Minutes Approved On: 03/20/2023 (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Jo Beth Dudley

Carol Sheltry

Carol Sheltry

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Tamela Swan